Oswald look-alike dies at 41

Dallas Times-Herald 1/18/79

'Shy' man tried to avoid publicity

Billy Nolan Lovelady, a Lee Harvey Oswald look-alike who fled from Dallas to Colorado to avoid harassment, is dead at the age of 41, the victim of an apparent heart attack.

"He was under a lot of stress. He paid for it dearly," family attorney Kenneth Brooten Jr. said today.

Lovelady, who died Sunday in Denver, was photographed standing in the doorway of the Texas School Book Depository at the moment President Kennedy was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963.

His resemblance to Oswald stirred immediate speculation that Oswald was not on the sixth floor of the Depository and could not have fired the bullets that killed Kennedy.

Assassination investigators pursued Lovelady, and he took his family to Denver and got into the trucking business.

His death prompted no autopsy, Denver County Coroner Bill Aldridge said today, indicating natural causes were presumed likely.

The 1963 photo which led to speculation was taken by an Associated Press photographer as bullets struck the President.

The Warren Commission, which interviewed Lovelady in Dallas on April 7, 1964, concluded that it was he and not Oswald in the photo. And Depository superintendent R. S. Truly identified the man as Lovelady, a Depository employe.

The Loveladys' lawyer, Brooten, of Gainesville, Fla., said Lovelady "never sought publicity, but he was often sought out. He left Texas because he had been hounded. I think that's a fair conclusion.

— AP photo

Circled figure in assassination picture was identified as Billy Lovelady

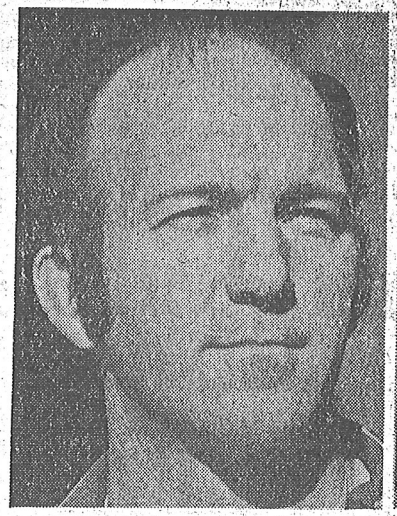
"He was a quiet type person, a family man, a decent person. He was the kind of person you could sit down with and talk about hunting and fishing."

Brooten said it was while he was serving as counsel to the House Assassinations Committee that he got to know Lovelady and became his lawyer.

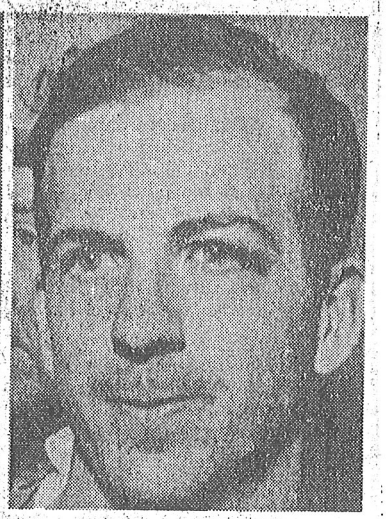
He said he talked on the phone with Lovelady a few weeks ago about visting him in Colorado and perhaps going hunting and fishing with him.

Brooten said he understood Lovelady was employed in the trucking business as "some kind of foreman."

Lovelady told a Warren Commission interviewer primarily of his movements the day of the killing. And he was asked if he ever saw Oswald "carry a sack or anything in his hand." He replied, "No sir, just lunch."



Lovelady



Oswald